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Latest Art, Culture, Food, Tourism news, views & announcements

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INK OCHI

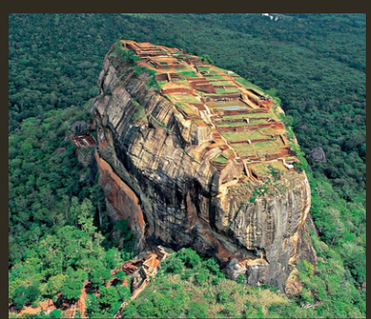
FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

24

Natural Fibers Into Little Wild Baskets

Suzie Grieve

Weaver of leaves & vines



SINHAGIRI

Ancient Rock Fortress Sri Lanka

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
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Editor & Publisher
Varghese T Thomas

Editorial Desk
Annie Smitha
Alicen Jacob

Design & Layout
Hari N Nair
Viswanath Gopal

Marketing & Advertisement
Suresh Panickar

For editorial, advertisements and feedback:

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Editor's Note

Rebuilding tourism is a priority, but the sector must become more sustainable and resilient in the future

Tourism continues to be one of the sectors hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic and the outlook remains highly uncertain.

Domestic tourism has restarted and is helping to mitigate the impact on jobs and businesses in some destinations. However, real recovery will only be possible when international tourism returns. This requires global co-operation and evidence-based solutions so travel restrictions can be safely lifted.

The survival of businesses throughout the tourism ecosystem is at risk without continued government support and although governments have taken impressive action to cushion the blow to tourism, to minimise job losses and to build recovery in 2021 and beyond, more needs to be done, and in a more co-ordinated way. Key policy priorities include:

- Restoring traveller confidence
- Supporting tourism businesses to adapt and survive
- Promoting domestic tourism and supporting safe return of international tourism
- Providing clear information to travellers and businesses, and limiting uncertainty (to the extent possible)
- Evolving response measures to maintain capacity in the sector and address gaps in supports
- Strengthening co-operation within and between countries
- Building more resilient, sustainable tourism

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

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VASCO HOMESTAY

FORT KOCHI

Vasco home stay is a unique heritage home stay facility with bed and breakfast, in the heart of Fort Cochin. The Vasco House is more than 500 years old and is believed to have been the residence of the famous explorer, Vasco da Gama until his death in 1524.

The picturesque heritage village of Fort Cochin was discovered by the Portuguese explorer. The Portuguese, Dutch and the British have etched their presence on this land. You can see the same in the architecture, cuisine and the lifestyle of this part of the city.

The rooms of Vasco house are large, with high wooden ceiling and large windows opening towards the historic St Francis Church where Vasco da Gama was buried. Two spacious rooms are meant for the guests. Both rooms have 2 double bed and single bed. We provide mosquito net, running hot and cold water, cable TV and for all there services that you can avail from the travel desk below.

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Kochi's spanking new cruise terminal receives first luxury liner in boost to tourism

The luxury liner MV Empress from Mumbai arrived at Cochin Port's newly-built cruise terminal, marking a promising start to Kerala's domestic tourist revival.

The luxury liner MV Empress from Mumbai called at the newly-built cruise terminal at Cochin Port here on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, signifying a hopeful start to the revival of domestic tourism in Kerala, according to a press release. The Lakshadweep-bound luxury cruise, carrying 1,200 passengers, made a stop here, with 300 passengers departing for a day of on-shore sightseeing. The Kerala Tourism Department greeted the guests with martial Velakali dancers and women dressed in traditional off-white attire.

Following the disastrous COVID-19 pandemic, the snow-white vessel, owned by Cordelia Cruises, became the first luxury cruise to anchor at the state-of-the-art terminal. The day-long Kochi leg included visits to Mattancherry and Fort Kochi, as well as several historical sites. Boat tours through the backwaters were also organised for tourists to enjoy the beauty of the 'Queen of the Arabian Sea.'

By: Staff correspondent
Video source: TNIE

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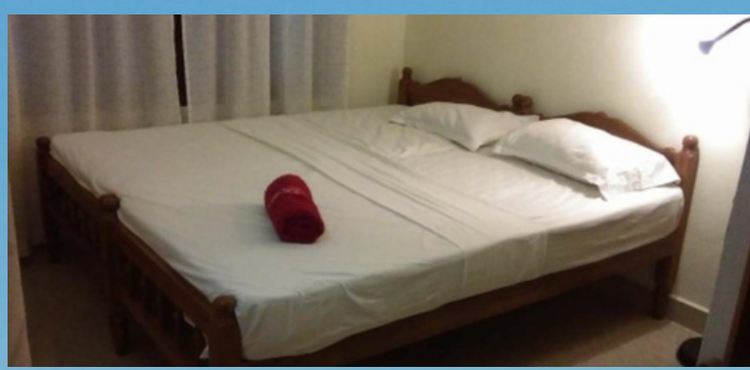

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Cosmos Malabaricus project gets green signal from Kerala Government

The Bolgatty Palace in Kochi is considered the oldest palace built by the Dutch outside Holland. It was built by a Dutch merchant in 1744

Cosmos Malabaricus: India, Netherlands to release 'treasure trove' of Dutch archival records on Kerala

The Indian embassy in the Netherlands, in a tweet, said the Cosmos Malabaricus project was a seven-year-old collaboration and initiatives have been taken to discuss the project with various stakeholders.

A project highlighting Kerala's history based on 17th-century Dutch records and aimed at making records of already digitised archival material from the government in the Netherlands accessible to a larger base of readers, including scholars from India and the world, is soon going to be launched. The Cosmos Malabaricus project is currently under consideration of authorities from India and the Netherlands.

The Indian embassy in the Netherlands, in a tweet, said the Cosmos Malabaricus project was a seven-year-old collaboration and initiatives have been taken to discuss the project with various stakeholders.
"Cosmos Malabaricus a 7-year collaboration to shed light into history of Kerala using archival material pertaining to Dutch East India Company available in India & the Netherlands was discussed between various stakeholders in online discussion at the initiative of Indian Embassy," the Indian embassy tweeted on last Friday.

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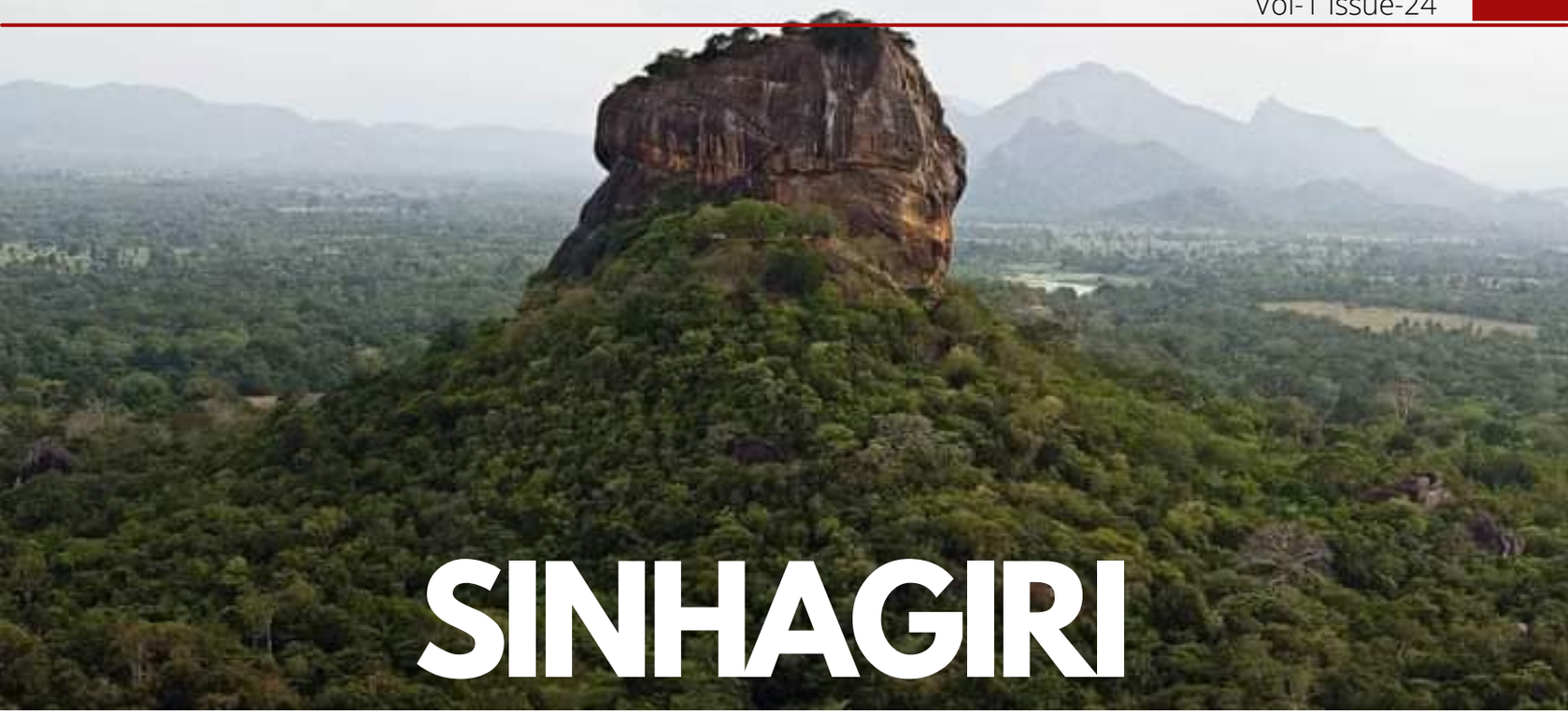


SINHAGIRI

PHOTOS & TEXT: RAMAKRISHNA NATH

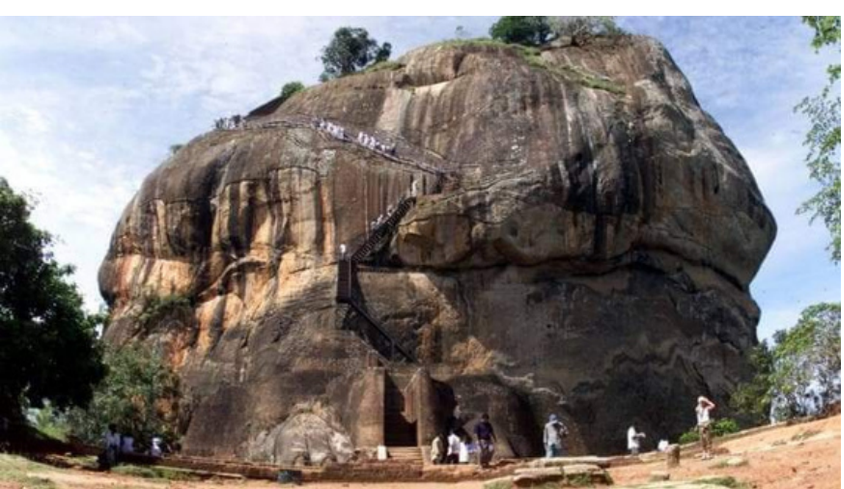
Sigiriya or Sinhagiri is an ancient rock fortress located in the northern Matale District near the town of Dambulla in the Central Province, Sri Lanka. The name refers to a site of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of rock nearly 200 metres (660 ft) high. According to the ancient Sri Lankan chronicle the Culavamsa, this site was selected by King Kasyapa (477 – 495 CE) for his new capital. He built his palace on the top of this rock and decorated its sides with colourful frescoes. On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this rock he built a gateway in the form of an enormous lion. The name of this place is derived from this structure —Sīhāgiri, the Lion Rock. The capital and the royal palace was abandoned after the king's death. It was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century.

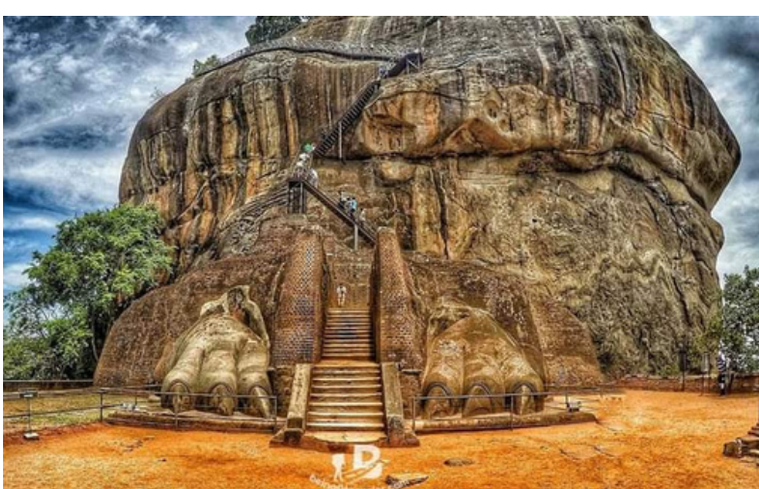
Sigiriya today is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site. It is one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning. >>

SINHAGIRI

The environment around the Sigiriya may have been inhabited since prehistoric times. There is clear evidence that the many rock shelters and caves in the vicinity were occupied by Buddhist monks and ascetics from as early as the 3rd century BCE. The earliest evidence of human habitation at Sigiriya is the Aligala rock shelter to the east of Sigiriya rock, indicating that the area was occupied nearly five thousand years ago during the Mesolithic Period.

Buddhist monastic settlements were established during the 3rd century BCE in the western and northern slopes of the boulder-strewn hills surrounding the Sigiriya rock. Several rock shelters or caves were created during this period. These shelters were made under large boulders, with carved drip ledges around the cave mouths. Rock inscriptions are carved near the drip ledges on many of the shelters, recording the donation of the shelters to the Buddhist monastic order as residences. These were made in the period between the 3rd century BCE and the 1st century CE. >>





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SINHAGIRI

In 477 CE, Kashyapa, the king's son by a non-royal consort, seized the throne from King Dathusena, following a coup assisted by Migara, the King's nephew and army commander. The rightful heir, Moggallana, fearing for his life, fled to South India. Afraid of an attack by Moggallana, Kashyapa moved the capital and his residence from the traditional capital of Anuradhapura to the more secure Sigiriya. During King Kashyapa's reign (477 to 495 CE), Sigiriya was developed into a complex city and fortress. Most of the elaborate constructions on the rock summit and around it, including defensive structures, palaces, and gardens, date from this period.

The Culavamsa describes King Kashyapa as the son of King Dhatusena. Kashyapa murdered his father by walling him up alive and then usurping the throne which rightfully belonged to his brother Moggallana, Dhatusena's son by the true queen. Moggallana fled to India to escape being assassinated by Kashyapa, but vowed revenge. In India he raised an army with the intention of returning and retaking the throne of Sri Lanka, which he considered to be rightfully his. Expecting the inevitable return of Moggallana, Kashyapa is said to have built his palace on the summit of Sigiriya as a fortress and pleasure palace. Moggallana finally arrived, declared war, and defeated Kashyapa in 495 CE. During the battle Kashyapa's armies abandoned him and he committed suicide by falling on his sword. >>

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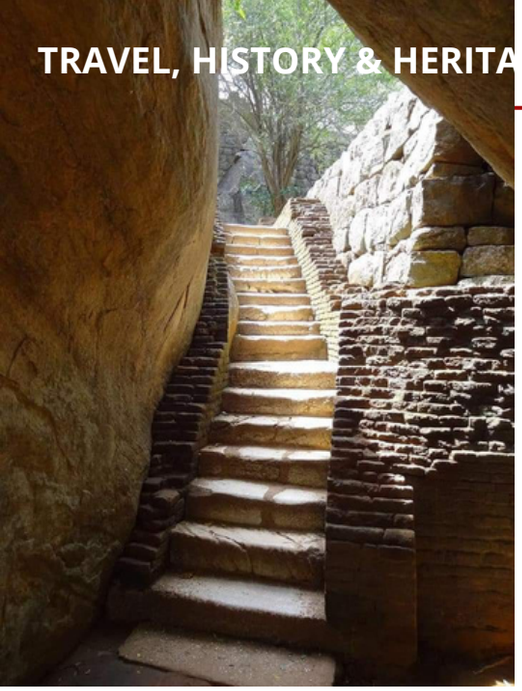
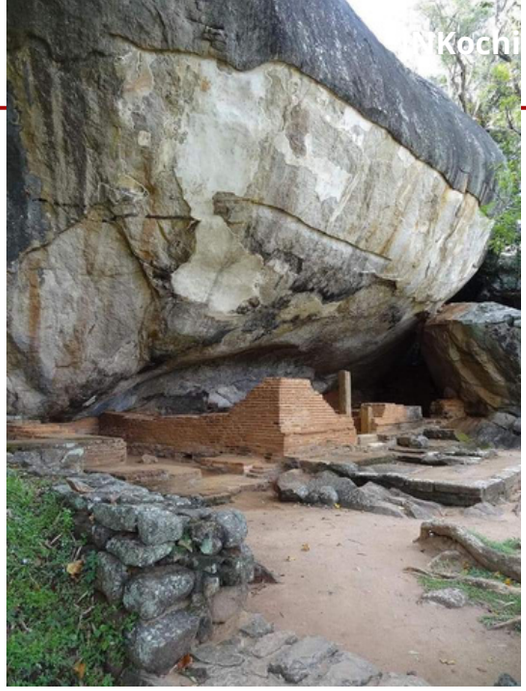
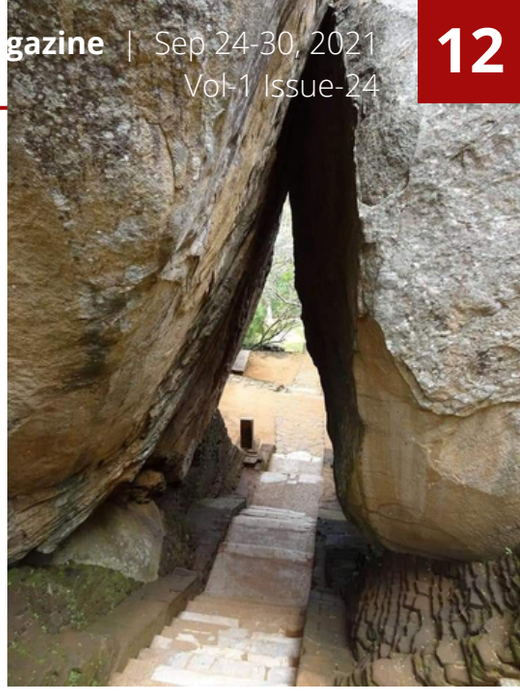
The Culavamsa and folklore inform us that the battle-elephant on which Kashyapa was mounted changed course to take a strategic advantage, but the army misinterpreted the movement as the king's having opted to retreat, prompting the army to abandon him altogether. It is said that being too proud to surrender he took his dagger from his waistband, cut his throat, raised the dagger proudly, sheathed it, and fell dead. Moggallana returned the capital to Anuradapura, converting Sigiriya into a Buddhist monastery complex, which survived until the 13th or 14th century. After this period, no records are found on Sigiriya until the 16th and 17th centuries, when it was used briefly as an outpost of the Kingdom of Kandy. >>







SINHAGIRI

Alternative stories have the primary builder of Sigiriya as King Dhatusena, with Kashyapa finishing the work in honour of his father. Still other stories describe Kashyapa as a playboy king, with Sigiriya his pleasure palace. Even Kashyapa's eventual fate is uncertain. In some versions he is assassinated by poison administered by a concubine; in others he cuts his own throat when deserted in his final battle. Still further interpretations regard the site as the work of a Buddhist community, without a military function. This site may have been important in the competition between the Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist traditions in ancient Sri Lanka. <>

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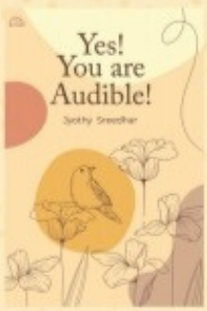

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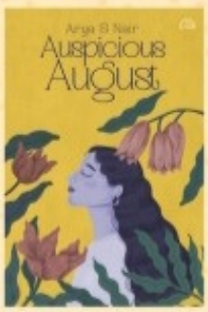

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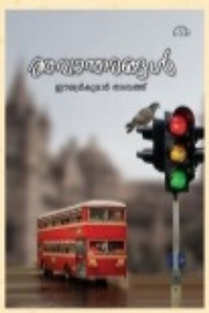
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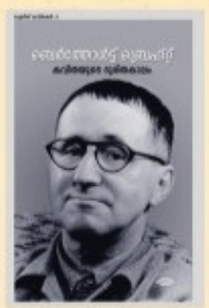
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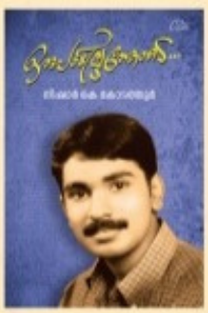
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Creates Miniature Handwoven Baskets From Foraged Plant Materials

ARTIST - SUZIE GRIEVE

LAKE DISTRICT, UK

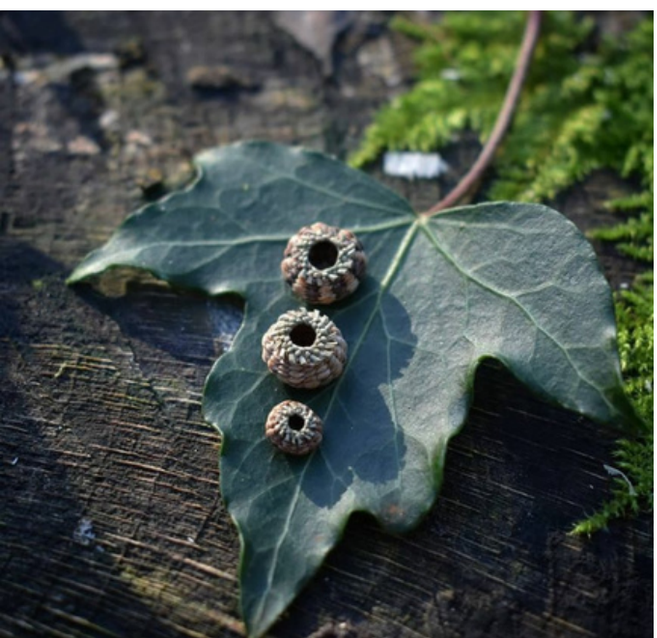
TEXT: ROBERTAS LISICKIS

UK-based artist Suzie Grieve takes basket weaving to a smaller scale to create minuscule handwoven containers that can make big impacts. Foraging outside for craft materials is a wonderful way in making unique arts and getting creative with what nature has to offer. Fallen leaves, branches, flowers, and seedpods make great materials for arts and crafts. And they’re basically free, costing nothing except your time and skills. >>

"I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS TACTILE CONNECTION WITH THE LAND AND THE PLANTS AROUND ME. I WOULD BE LOST WITHOUT IT. OFTEN WE'RE TOLD TO JUST LOOK AT NATURE BUT I THINK IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO INTERACT AND BE PART OF IT. TO STUDY WHAT'S AROUND US AND USE WHAT GROWS ABUNDANTLY TO MAKE MEDICINE, FOOD AND CRAFT."

Miniature Handwoven Little Baskets

Indeed, natural foraged materials make versatile mediums in creating charming portraits and sculptures. But artist Suzie Grieve has found a new way of putting invasive plants and weeds to good use. Gathering invasive plant species that are often regarded as nuisances, Grieve doesn't only help protect native plants and animals but also gives a fresh take on traditional basket weaving. Wild fibers derived from foraged plants and weeds are processed into cords and intertwined into durable tiny vessels. Miniature baskets, pouches, and bowls, each of her adorable creations demonstrates her ability to adapt an age-old craft into an unusually tiny forms. >>

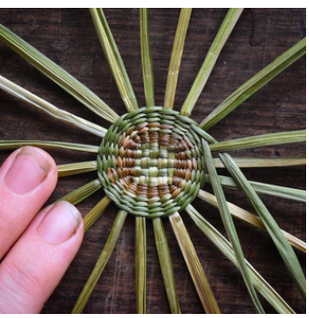


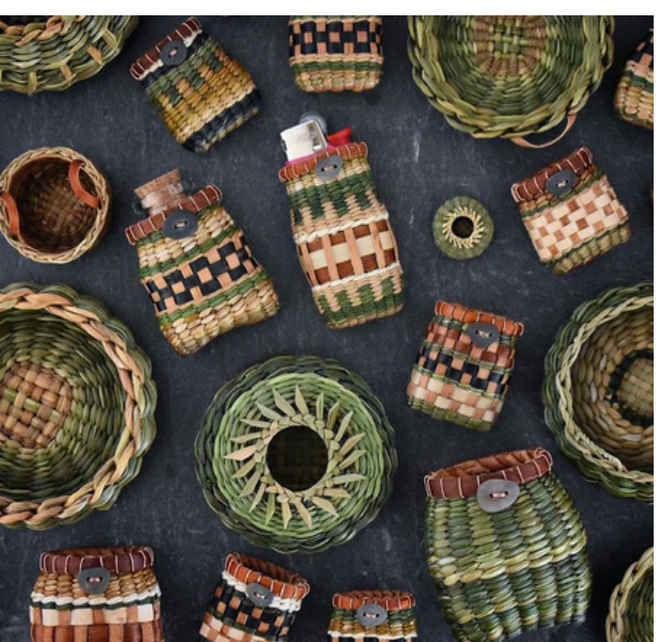
"THERE ARE MANY THINGS I ENJOY ABOUT WEAVING BUT MOST IMPORTANT, I THINK, IS THE BEAUTIFUL AND TACTILE WAY IT ALLOWS YOU TO CONNECT WITH THE SEASONS, THE PLANTS AND THE LAND.
TO BE RELIANT ON AND PART OF NATURE GIVES YOU SUCH A DEEP RESPECT AND DESIRE TO CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND YOU".

More popularly known by the name Foraged Fibres on the internet, the creative artist harvests wild foraged materials from the woodlands and fields near her home in the Lake District. Some of her favorite leafy plants to work with are dandelion, blackberry, and ivy. Her basket weaving technique involves meticulous process of separating the stalk, removing the spongy pith, drying the fibers, and rehydrating the strands to create durable cords. The cords are then twisted and woven into rows of various patterns: coiled, checkered, or striped. >>

Miniature Handwoven Little Baskets

"THE FIRST TIME MY HANDS TANGLED SOME VINES INTO A VAGUELY VESSEL LIKE SHAPE I IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CRAFT OF BASKET MAKING".





Minuscule containers ranging from palm-sized bowls to baskets that are as tiny as her fingertip, the intricate craftsmanship is a testimony of the endless possibilities of natural materials. And the best of part it? Grieve puts up her miniature handwoven creations for sale via her website. So, you can head over her online shop and see what's in store for you. Or you can follow her on Instagram to see her latest creations. >>

Miniature Handwoven Little Baskets

"WHEN ACTUALLY CREATING I LOVE TO WORK ON A SMALLER SCALE, WEAVING UP JEWELLERY AND TINY BASKETS. THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE THE SPACE TO GROW OR STORE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF MATERIALS BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE OF MY LOVE FOR TINY CUTE THINGS. ESPECIALLY TINY LITTLE VESSELS AND CONTAINERS!"

Miniature Handwoven Little Baskets

As mentioned in the previous pages, Suzie Grieve, the mastermind behind Foraged Fibres, is a self-taught wild basket and jewelry maker from Lake District, a region and national park in Cumbria in northwest England.

Grieve weaves miniature baskets and tiny jewelry using dried leaves, vines, and weeds. She also weaves regular-sized baskets, if you're wondering.

The plants she gathers, obviously, depend on the seasons, which she particularly enjoys because of the awareness of the seasons and their cycles that it all provides.

She told that, in springtime, she gathers willow bark and dandelions. In the summer, it's the likes of nettles and brambles. Autumn is "a mad rush of harvesting long leafy things," while in the winter—as much as the short daytime allows—she forages vines, such as honeysuckles and ivy. <>

Source: BoredPanda

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Amazing TO KNOW

STAVE CHURCH

An 800-year-old church in Borgund, Norway, made entirely from wood without a single nail.

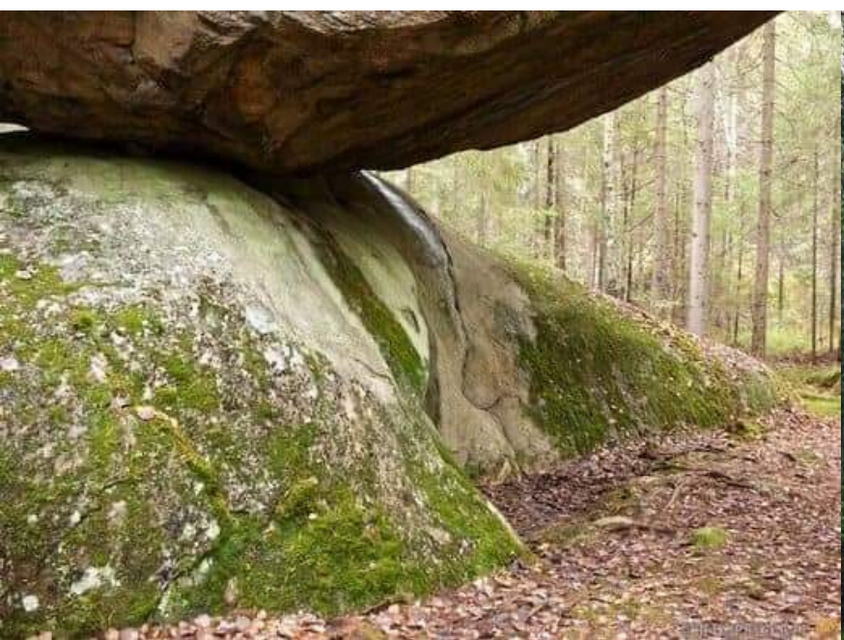
Borgund Stave Church was built sometime between 1180 and 1250 AD with later additions and restorations. Its walls are formed by vertical wooden boards, or staves, hence the name "stave church".

The church is part of the Borgund parish in the Indre Sogn deanery in the Diocese of Bjørgvin. No longer regularly used for church functions, it is now a museum run by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Norwegian Monuments.

Amazing TO KNOW

MEGALITHIC STONE CREATION

The Kummakivi Rock, Ruokolahti, Finland.



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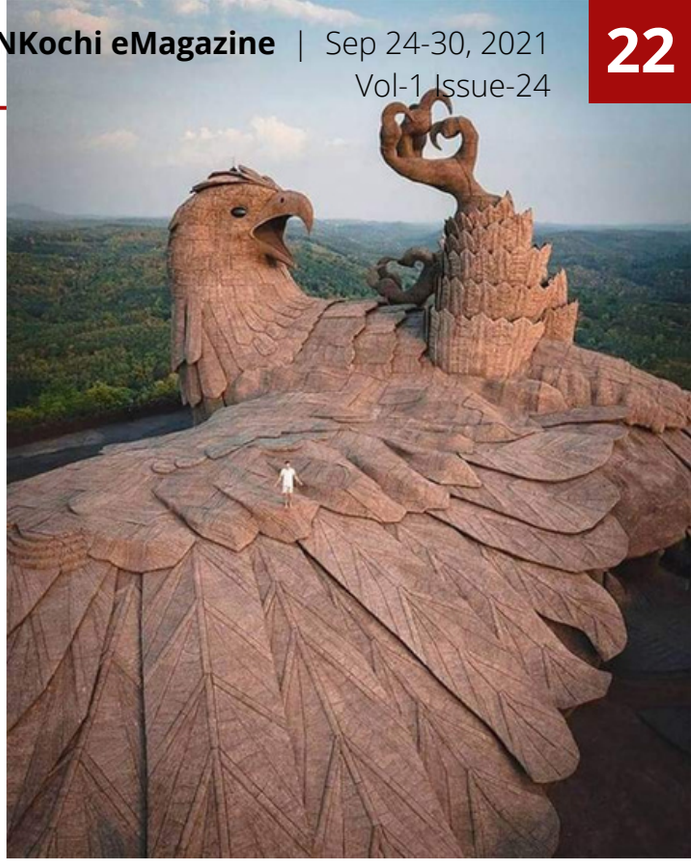
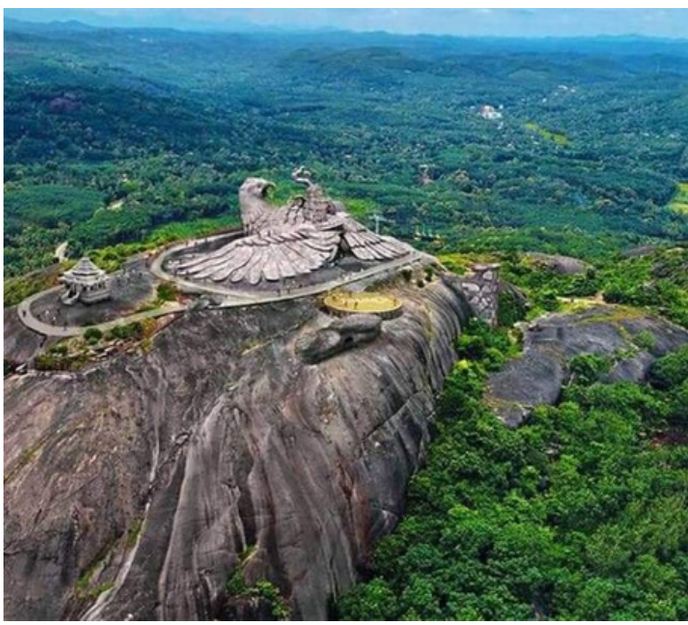
JATAYU ROCK



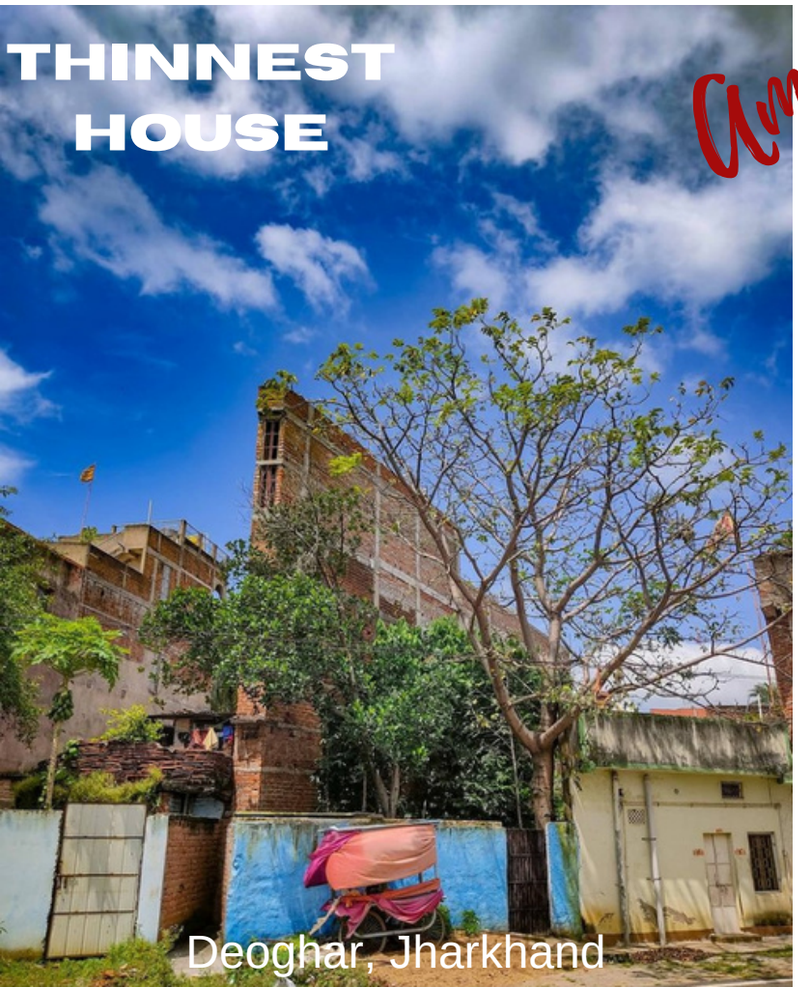
Jatayu Rock
The largest bird sculpture in the world

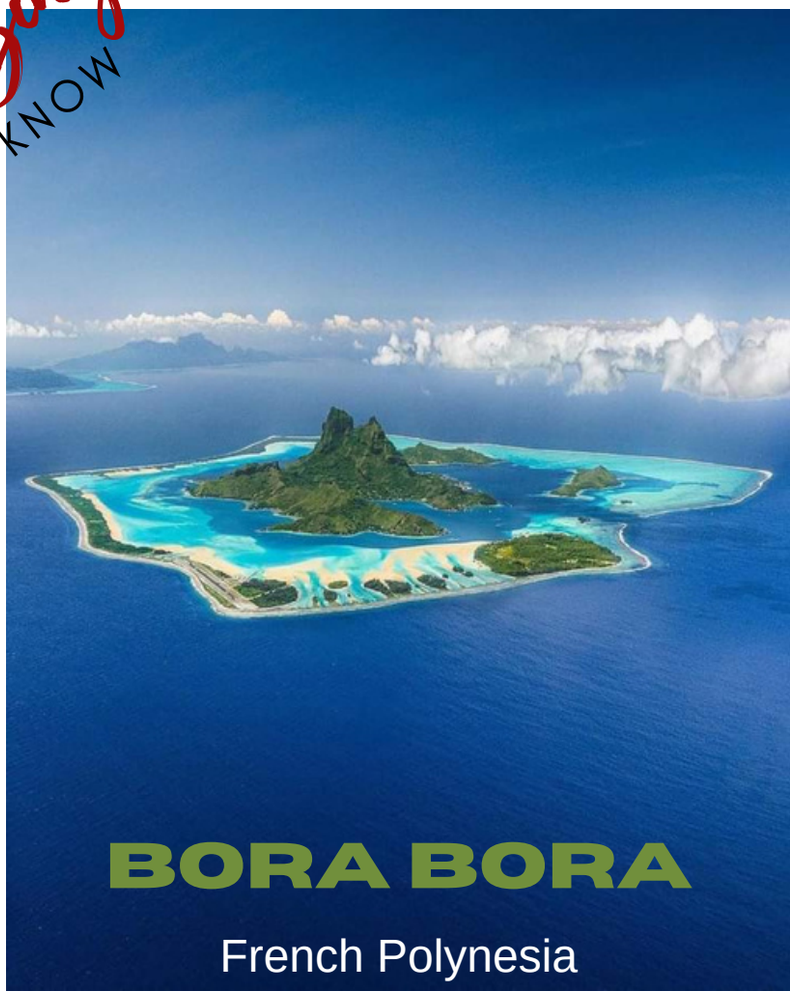
Jatayu center of earth, it is also called Jatayu Rock. Jatayu Nature Park is located in Jatayumangalam town, Kollam district of Kerala, India. The amazing work took 10 years to complete, and is the creation of the famous Indian artist Rajiv Anchal . The gigantic sculpture is 61 meters long, 46 meters wide, 21 meters high and occupies an area of 14,000 meters square.



At Jatayu Earth Center , in Kerala, is the largest bird sculpture in the world. It is a creature inspired by the mythology of India.

Amazing TO KNOW





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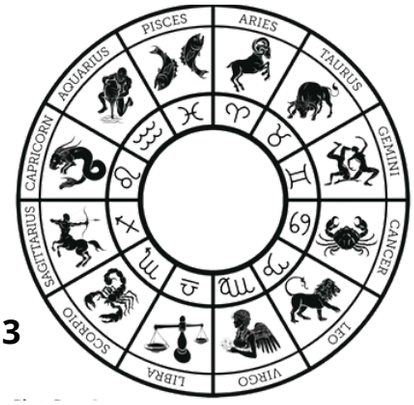

Your Next 7 Days

Sep 24-30, 2021

Truth in all matters of life. A time of being famous. Lucky period in life, full of joy and celebrations. A new cycle in life where things will go to the next level. You will realize that living in conflicts perpetuates negativity, so time to let go.	**ARIES**	**LIBRA**	A time of celebration, birthdays, anniversaries and a time of worldly success. A time of balance in relationships. Some delays, discords or small disruptions should not make a difference in this time of overall stability.
You will go through feelings of rejection in some situation or because of someone. You will get out of it quickly to enjoy with people who value you. A strong will and patience will get you what you want in love or career.	**TAURUS**	**SCORPIO**	There is a need to be serious in matters of heart or mind. Efforts need to be consistent in your career or relationships. Not facing realities could cause you mental agony. Once you let go of illusory thinking and come face to face with the truth, things will work out.
You will be caught in a waiting game. And obsessions of passion and materialism will obstruct your daily chores and you could miss them for enjoyment. Vacation, travel and lot of sunshine will make you upbeat.	**GEMINI**	**SAGITTARIUS**	You will have the will power to deal with shake ups and unpleasant situations. Your ability to crush the obstacles and focus on the goals ahead will get you new opportunities, powerful alliances and achievements. Choose your priorities wisely.
A heavy situation of obsession, emotional blackmail. A large bodied person might be intimidating you. Or you are obsessing about a person who is out of your league. The cards indicate a deep soul union and a new beginning in life.	**CANCER**	**CAPRICORN**	You need to pause and re-examine your plans. You will unconsciously adopt new ways of doing things and steer away from illusions, becoming more practical. Don't ignore signs of deception and take calculated risks. Take care of your health.
Good time to move on from a stuck situation or a bondage of relationship. You will find your authority or you would be dealing with authorities and institutions & traditions quite smoothly. Hard work towards a new profession or new learning will bring abundance.	**LEO**	**AQUARIUS**	A situation of power. Power to do one's own thing. You will be a person equipped at this time with the right mix of initiative, mysticism, hard work and encouragement. A period of celebration, new home, promotion or reunions. Time of progress.
Success will gratify you after extreme work in troubling circumstances. A good outcome is predicted despite a sudden upheaval or a series of attacks on your pride. Joy, satisfaction and triumph will be found.	**VIRGO**	**PISCES**	A clear perception of material side of things along with appreciation of nature, joy of living. Trees. Light hearted living with hopes and expectations. Nostalgia in love and connection with soul mate. And a decision to walk away from sadness.

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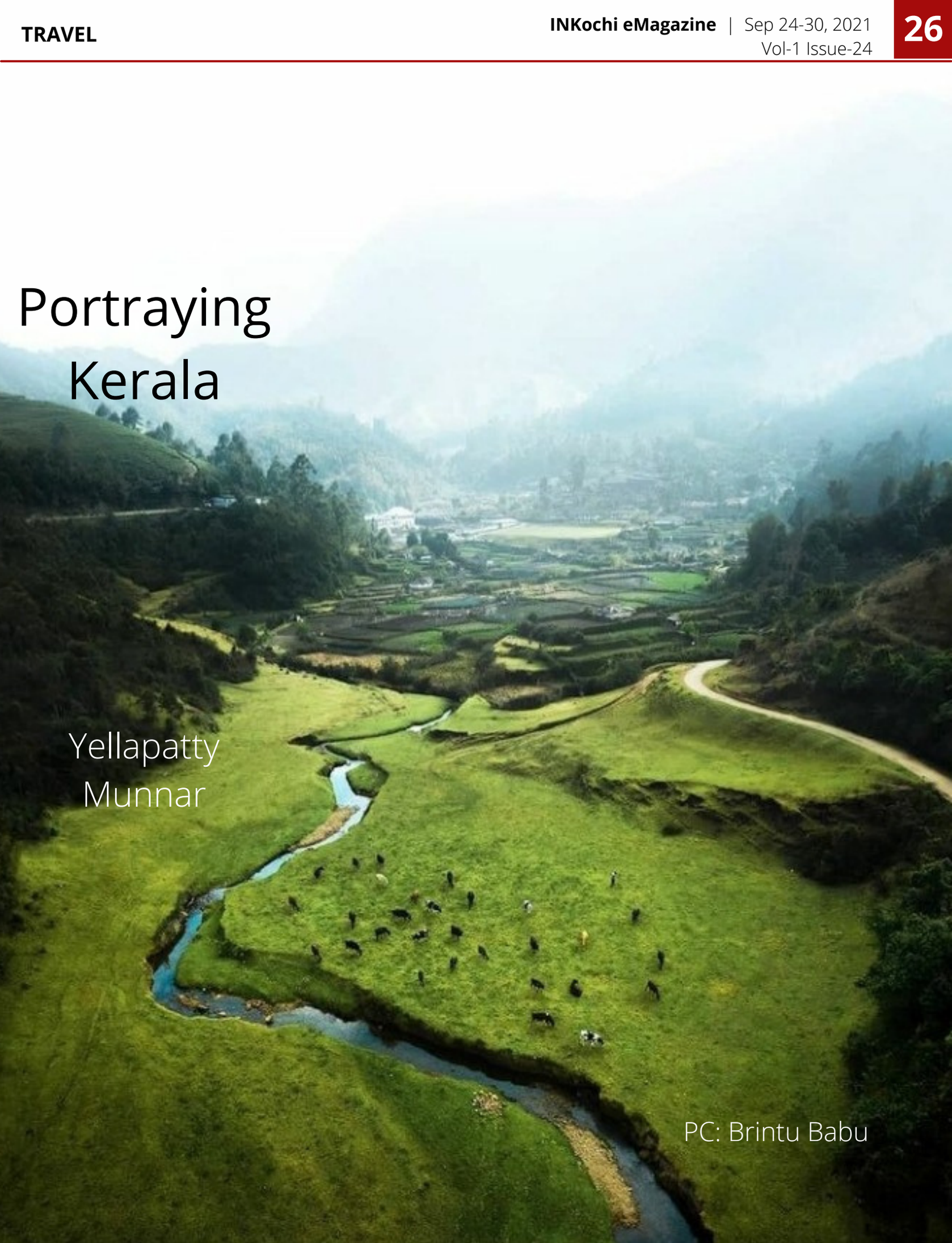
By:
Aarzoo Khurana

Portraying Kerala



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